



## IDE News n° 38 June 2018

### EDITORIAL

The first semester of 2018 was filled with colloquiums, conferences and training sessions on a number of themes, in different places and before multiple audiences. The variety of the seminars is striking, and we note that the participation of children, a fundamental principle of the Convention on the rights of the child (CRC) has come to play an increasingly major role.

Thank goodness for that!!! After 30 years of children's rights implementation, it must be noted that children struggle to gain recognition as fully-fledged individuals. The paternalistic point of view of the adult considers the child, always and forever, as a "minor", which prevents full and effective child participation from realizing itself. Yet, and this should not be understood as finding excuses for adults, it is not easy to foster child participation that is devoid of influence, or worse: manipulation, in whatever form. Hearing children, collaborating with them, creating projects with them, are behaviors that need to be learned. Admittedly, participatory tools do exist, but are often unknown and hesitantly applied. Especially if children belong to vulnerable groups, such as children in contact with the law, migrants, with disabilities, or who simply belong to the 0-4 age range. The IDE and the city of Geneva are leading innovative projects in this field, which aim to be extended to other cantons with other partners. The festivities linked to the 30-year anniversary of the CRC offered an array of choices open to creativity.

It is clearly the case that for professionals working with and for children, training plays a crucial role in the elaboration of participatory projects. On this topic, the IDE is excited to announce the fifth graduating class of the certificate program Child Victims, Child Witnesses: Hearing Children in Judicial Proceedings (CPE), which was created thanks to the visionary support of the OAK Foundation. We wish to extend our most sincere thanks to the OAK Foundation for having believed in the project, since it has successfully trained and perfected the skills in child participation of no less than 40 professionals in Western Switzerland, who have since then maintained a close relationship with the IDE, while being a part of its precious network.

To all you dear readers, we wish you a happy summer and are excited to see you again in September!

**Paola Riva Gapany**

This edition of IDE News looks back on the work carried out by the IDE from December 2017 to June 2018. We hope you enjoy the read!

-  awareness raising
-  professional training
-  network
-  publications

### AWARENESS RAISING

#### CHILD PARTICIPATION

In the wake of past editions, the IDE's celebration of the **International Day of Children's Rights** on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 aimed to serve as a springboard to enhance the participation of children in public affairs. On the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November, children, professionals and experts will put their views together and think about how to best implement some of the recommendations in the city of Geneva that the children proposed last year. Save the date!

Before the conference takes place, children and adults have been meeting since the beginning of the year in as part of a process facilitated by the city of Geneva. The city collaborated with the University of Geneva's Centre for Children's Rights Studies in order to organize the 30-year anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which will take place in 2019. Events include a daylong workshop bringing together key actors from the child participation field (roughly sixty participants). The event took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, and aimed to achieve a common vision of what participation means, as well as to plan common events to organize for the 30-year anniversary. The IDE took part in the event, and enriched it with the point of view of children, which were collected and filmed during workshops held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March (school of Tremblay) and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March (Peschier), in collaboration with the Genevan Group for Extracurricular Activities (GIAP).

#### 20 NOVEMBER

The IDE will also be celebrating the International Day of Children's Rights 2018 in Valais, continuing also to extend the festivities over the course of the coming year, until the grand 30-year anniversary event, to be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2019. In the context of these events, the IDE has partnered with the canton, the city of Sion, other interested cities in Valais, as well as with organizations which work with children with disabilities.

#### TEACHING MATERIALS

In 2018, **teaching materials** were devised by the IDE for use on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November. These materials will be dedicated to the link between children's rights and climate change. In Switzerland, incidences of climate change produce an increase in the frequency and intensity of summer heat waves, droughts, and intense rainfall. As a consequence, an irreversible modification of landscapes and ecosystems occurs.

As a State interconnected with the rest of the world, Switzerland will also need to face the consequences of climate change occurring on the global scale, especially in terms of migrations.

The environmental risks disproportionately threaten children, given their physical and social positions of vulnerability. Their size, state of organ development, metabolic rhythm, behavior, developing knowledge, as well as their place in society play an important role. In addition, children are those humans who must live with the increasingly severe consequences of climate change. However, children possess a greater capacity to adapt to change. Their freedom of thought, uninhibited by established ideas and closed thought processes, affords them the possibility of tackling the unknown and the audacity to devise innovative solutions.

The dossier which was prepared by the IDE on these issues, in collaboration with its partners, is an invitation for educational institutions to celebrate the ratification of the CRC by Switzerland, by organizing activities that are adapted to all grades of compulsory education.

The teaching materials are available for free download as of the beginning of the new school year, on the [IDE website](#).

## JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN: WORLD CONGRESS

From the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, the IDE was partner to the [World Congress on Justice for Children](#) organized at UNESCO headquarters in Paris by the Terre des hommes – Aide à l'enfance Foundation, the Child Rights International Network (CRIN), the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (AIMJF), Penal Reform International (PRI), Defense for Children International (DCI), the Belgian institute for judiciary training, and the "Information for All" programme led by UNESCO. The Congress was dedicated to the theme: "Strengthening Justice Systems for Children: Challenges, including disengagement from violent extremism". The IDE's director moderated a workshop entitled "Reducing all stages of delinquency: approaches to primary, secondary and tertiary prevention".

Consult the [complete program](#)  
Twitter : [#J4C2018](#)

## CORPORAL PUNISHMENT: SYMPOSIUM

The traditional [May symposium](#) was organized by the IDE, in collaboration with the Swiss Centre of Expertise in Human Rights (SCHR), and in partnership with the School of Applied Science in Pedagogy of Valais (HEP-VS) St-Maurice and Brigue, the School of Applied Science in Social Work (HES-SO Valais/Wallis), and the Cantonal Service for Youth in Valais. The event was held at the Berne Inselspital on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of May. The main theme was "[To improve the protection of children in Switzerland: ban all corporal punishment?](#)"

Some 120 participants took part in the event: paediatricians, hospital and school nurses, teachers

who are mediators in their schools, early-childhood educators, university students, individuals representing youth courts, NGOs, cantonal services for youth and social services.

This year, the symposium benefitted from moral support and/or sponsoring from a large number of actors: the European Council, the Latin Conference for the Promotion and Protection of Youth (CLPPJ), the Federal Commission for Childhood and Youth (CFEJ), Defense for Children – International, the Fondazione della Svizzera italiana per l'Aiuto, il Sostegno e la Protezione dell'Infanzia (ASPI), the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (IAYFJM), the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN), Keine Gewalt gegen Kinder, Kinderschutz Schweiz, the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) Schweiz, Pro Juventute, Save the Children Switzerland, the Swiss Society of Paediatrics (SSP), and Terre des hommes - Aide à l'enfance.

High-quality, internationally renowned expert speakers demonstrated the negative impacts of corporal punishment on child development. Space was given to researchers having led studies on the subject in Switzerland, as well as from comparative perspectives in different countries. Foreign policies served to explain the history which allowed a given country to legally prohibit corporal punishment against children. The organizers launched the "[call to Berne](#)" (which can still be signed) in order for an explicit interdiction against all forms of corporal punishment and degrading treatment against children to be included into civil law.

Speaker's biographies are available on the [SCHR website](#). Also, please feel free to consult the article written by Paola Riva Gapany which was published in the [REISO](#) review.

On the topic of corporal punishment and psychological violence, a petition is currently being passed around Switzerland. It can be signed [here](#).

Finally, the 2016 conference proceedings on [New forms of parenthood: time of sharing... but what about the children?](#) are now available. They can be ordered through [www.childsrights.org/publications](#).

## FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATIONS

On the occasion of the [International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\) on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 2018](#), Mrs Paola Riva Gapany spoke in Vétroz, Valais, to professionals working for the canton on the issue of migration (educators working in centres in Valais, Red Cross social workers, independent midwives, professionals working in Sexualité Information Prévention Education – SIPE consultation centres). The IDE director's mission was to explain the legal framework surrounding the issue of FGM (authors, stature of limitations, practices, reporting/denunciation and threat of expulsion/deportation). The event was organized by the SIPE Valais, and was carried out in the framework

of the symposium entitled: **“Talking about excision: Taking steps?”**

We encourage readers to consult the **Swiss Network against Female Genital Cutting** website in order to receive more information on the topic.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL**

The **Summer School on Children’s Rights** taking place from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of June will bring together 21 participants, and is part of the **Geneva Summer Schools**. The Summer school is entitled “Children at the Heart of Human Rights”.

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

### **ACADEMIC TRAINING ABROAD**

#### **INDIA**

A *memorandum of understanding* has been established between the University of Geneva (UNIGE) and the National Law University of Odisha, India, in view of implementing an executive course in juvenile justice in collaboration with the UNIGE Interfaculty Centre for Children’s Rights Studies. The programme’s steering committee was constituted and a convention is currently being signed.

A symposium of Supreme Court judges will also take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of July in Cuttack to launch the course. The vice-director of the University of Odisha, prof. Srikrishna Deva Rao will be present, as well as the magistrates of the Juvenile Justice Committees of High Courts in India, Mrs. Renate Winter (President of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child), and the IDE’s own Paola Riva Gapany and Aline Sermet.

The training programme will begin this year.

#### **WEST AFRICA**

The Steering Committee of the CAS in Protection and Children’s Rights aimed for professionals working in West Africa approved the Convention and the Study Regulations for this training programme, which is currently undergoing validation by the University of Geneva.

In January, project manager Mrs Aline Sermet and Mr Michel Lachat, an expert in juvenile justice, met with prof. Samba Thiam, the Directeur of the Institute for Human Rights and Peace at the Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD) in Dakar, to discuss the CAS training programme. The curriculum is being formed. More information should be forthcoming over the course of the summer.

### **ACADEMIC TRAINING IN SWITZERLAND**

In Switzerland, the IDE continues to train students and professionals, especially through tutoring and courses provided as part of the diplomas taught by the University of Geneva’s Interfaculty Centre in Children’s Rights Studies (CIDE).

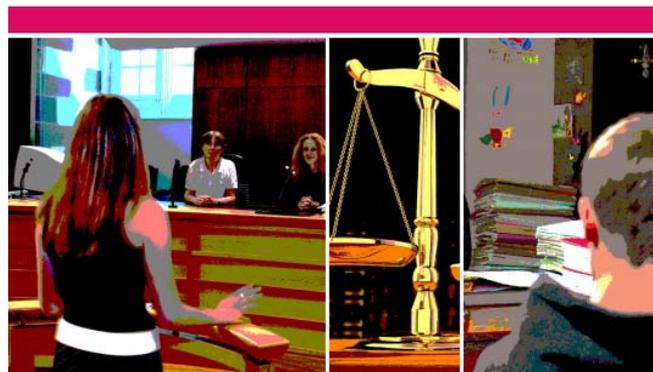
## **LAUNCHING A NEW CLASS OF THE CPE!**

CAS

Certificat de formation continue  
Certificate of Advanced Studies

## **Enfants Victimes, Enfants Témoins: la Parole de l’Enfant en Justice**

5<sup>e</sup> volée | septembre 2018 > mars 2020



The Certificate **Child Victims, Child Witnesses: Hearing Children in Judicial Proceedings (CPE)**, 5<sup>th</sup> graduating class, is open to registration. The deadline for submitting candidacies is the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2018. The class is intended for professionals working in the field of socio-psycho-judiciary intervention (child protection, mediation, magistrature, police, the bar). The CAS is provided for groups ranging from 15 to 20 people. It will commence with a first introductory module (introduction to law, methodological elements, interdisciplinarity) on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of September.

Watch the **promotional video** of the training program (alumni testimony).

#### **ADVANCED STUDIES IN CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

The 9<sup>th</sup> graduating class of the **Master of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights (MCR)** commenced in February 2017 with 13 participants. It recently conducted its 5<sup>th</sup> module, from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of March of the topic of health, and a sixth module, from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, on the topic of penal justice. A seventh module will take place on the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of November on the topic of migration. Individuals interested in completing a **Certificate of Advanced Studies in Children’s Rights** which combines 2 of the 7 MCR modules can register all year long via the University of Geneva.

#### **MIDE**

The **Interdisciplinary Master’s degree in children’s rights studies (MIDE)** will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. In March, Mrs Aline Sermet gave

a class on the theme “The right to be heard in context” and in april, Mrs Paola Riva Gapany intervened on the topic of “Violence and mistreatment: particular issues, the case of excision and forced marriage”. The 11th graduating class of this 3-semester training program (90 ECTS credits) will begin following academic commencement in September 2018.

## ONLINE TRAINING

### PANAMA/LATIN AMERICA

Registration is open until the 30<sup>th</sup> of June to join the second graduating class of the [Certificate of Advanced Studies in Juvenile Justice via e-learning](#), a certificate in Spanish, carried out from Panama for all of Latin America, produced thanks to a collaboration between the IDE, the CIDE and Terre des hommes. [This training programme](#) is aimed at professionals working in fields of intervention linked to the rights of children in conflict with the law, victims or witnesses: members of the police, judges, lawyers, institutional and penitentiary staff, educators, psychologists, doctors (eg. paediatricians, pedopsychiatrists), criminologists, migration experts, researchers, etc. This CAS will be translated into other languages at a later date.

### SOMALIA

Since February, work has been carried out to set up a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) entitled “Through the Horn of Africa: Act for the Rights of the Child”. The IDE takes seriously the need for the MOOC most closely respond to the practical needs of its target audience, in regards to cultural references as well as workload and accessibility. In this spirit, a small group of “counsellors” comprised of people working in the Horn of Africa (NGO coordinators, academics, anthropologists, etc.) and people belonging to the diaspora, were brought together to accompany the IDE in its development of the [online training programme](#). The taught themes were chosen and approved and the first videos featuring children’s rights experts from the region will be filmed in June.

The professionals working with/for children in the Horn of Africa will therefore possess, as of 2019, a practical and concrete tool to promote the respect and defense of children’s rights in their work.

### MOOC IN CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

The MOOC in Children’s Rights created by the CIDE in partnership with the IDE was launched in early 2017 [on the Coursera platform](#). The training programme will continue to provide interested people with an overview of the principal teaching themes relative to children’s rights, under the title: “Children’s Human Rights: an Interdisciplinary Introduction”. This training programme seeks to be open to all and has received very positive feedback from registered internet learners.

## “TAYLOR MADE” TRAINING PROGRAMMES

### SENEGAL: TRAINERS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE



From the 29<sup>th</sup> of January to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, the 3<sup>rd</sup> module of [Teacher Training in Juvenile Justice \(FFJJ3\)](#) took place in Senegal, in collaboration with the country’s Swiss Embassy and the Centre for Judiciary Training in Dakar.

For the very first time, this module was held in Kédougou, in the South (not far from Mali and Gambia) instead of being held in the capital city. A number of participants were from this region and this brought on innovations affecting the curriculum: in addition to the themes linked to restorative justice and to pedagogical engineering, a number of issues related to child labour, trafficking and migration were treated by presentations, visits and debates, as they are present and recurring phenomena in this region.



The 4<sup>th</sup> module will take place in Switzerland, in Sion and Geneva, from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of June. A number of visits and meetings with practitioners are planned in the following settings: closed centre for adolescents, juvenile courts, open institutions, police brigade for child intervention, etc.

### BULGARIA

In Bulgaria, the last supplementary module which was requested by the Ministry of Justice as part of the programme to strengthen the juvenile justice system will

take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September in Stara Zagora on the theme of court child hearings. Aline Sermet will be onsite with an inspector from the canton of Vaud and a psychocriminologist from the canton of Neuchâtel. The following week, Paola Riva Gapany will also be travelling to Bulgaria in order to attend the final conference of the programme which commenced in 2015.

## NETWORK

### ADEM

During the first semester of 2018, the Alliance for the Rights of Migrant Children (ADEM), which brings together the IDE, the Swiss Foundation of the International Social Service, and the Terre des Hommes - Helping Children Worldwide Foundation, made public three position statements. In March, the ADEM **reiterated some fundamental principles** regarding lodging child migrants as a reaction to the mobilisation of educators working in EVAM centres, in the canton of Vaud. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, the ADEM responded to a request for consultation by the Confederation as part of the ordinance project relative to the exploitation of the confederation's centres and lodging at the airport (exploitation ordinance). The ADEM published a **position paper** on the issue. Finally, during the month of May, after a visit to a collective accommodation centre in Vennes (Vaud), the ADEM felt compelled to reiterate **a number of fundamental principles in the field of urgent aid following a deportation decision**.



The next ADEM symposium will take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November at the universal postal union in Berne, under the title: **“The integration of children and young migrants: what are the challenges posed to professionals?”** By bringing together experts from the field and creating a space for exchange, this symposium aims to clarify the role of professionals within the integration process (from legal, social, educational, professional and participatory angles). It will lead to recommendations that will allow guiding practice.

More information is available via [www.enfants-migrants.ch](http://www.enfants-migrants.ch). You can also find practical tools such as the **Manual for the Care of Unaccompanied Child Migrants**, the **Cartography of Cantonal Structures for the Care of Unaccompanied Child Migrants** or

the **Catalogue of Good Practices** which was produced by the International social Service.

### RSDE

The **Child Rights Network Switzerland (CRNS)**, of which the IDE is a member, elected its new president, Mrs Valentina Darbellay of Terre des Hommes, on the occasion of its general Assembly on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2018. **Integras**, a professional association for social education and specialised pedagogy, joined the Network's Committee. In addition, Léa Meister now represents the Swiss Council for Youth Activities (CSAJ) and Regula Bernhard-Hug represents Child Protection Switzerland.

One of the main tasks of the network is to produce the Swiss alternative report for the attention of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). A first meeting took place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, which brought together the working group dedicated to the report by the NGOs. The IDE took part together with 7 other organisations. A consultation is ongoing involving the other members, to prepare the “List of Issues Prior to Reporting” that needs to be conveyed to the CRC, according to the new simplified procedure regimenting report submissions.

In parallel, a group was formed to work on the report by children and youth.

On this topic, the CRNS has committed itself to a cycle of transnational meetings with Austrian and German children's rights networks, taking place between the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2016 and the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 in Vienna, Geneva, and Berlin. On the menu: ideas, methods and practices for participation of children in the context of producing the report for the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

### SARAH OBERSON FOUNDATION

The Sarah Oberson Foundation is undergoing a renewal. Clara Balestra is leaving her position after serving 9 years as the Foundation's scientific and administrative collaborator. The past years have witnessed many successful projects and events. Clara Balestra will remain in the children's rights field in working on the IDE's project to produce teaching materials, and will also be continuing the coordination of the Association of community interpreters in Valais (AVIC). Her replacement will be joining the team soon, and will be continuing to head efforts through two domains of intervention: in schools on the one hand, as well as on the theme of disappeared children.

### VEILLARD CYBULSKI FORUM

The 2018 **Forum** of the **Veillard-Cybulski Fund Association** is entitled: **“Sexy, my selfie! Flirting with norms and the limits of private life: caution, danger...”**. The event will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November at the School of Applied Science in Social Work, Lausanne. Save the date! The programme and registration form are available on the IDE's website, via [reseau/veillard-cybulski](http://reseau/veillard-cybulski).

## PUBLICATIONS

The IDE's 2015 activity report was published on the 12th of April. It can be downloaded in [French](#), [German](#) and [English](#) on the IDE's website.



In addition, to enhance your summer leisure, we invite you to order the most recent IDE publications: [“The child in Valais, from 1815 to 2015”](#) and [“The Essentials in Juvenile justice”](#). Purchases include a free IDE bookmark!

We wish you an excellent summer!



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